

(1) to provide for early payment of vendors in cases where an agency will implement an electronic payment technology which improves agency cash management and business practice.”.

(b) **AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT ELECTRONIC PAYMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to an agreement between the head of an executive agency and the applicable financial institution or institutions based on terms acceptable to the Secretary of the Treasury, the head of such agency may accept an electronic payment, including debit and credit cards, to satisfy a nontax debt owed to the agency.

(2) **GUIDELINES FOR AGREEMENTS REGARDING PAYMENT.**—The Secretary of the Treasury shall develop guidelines regarding agreements between agencies and financial institutions under paragraph (1).

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment in the nature of a substitute be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, this is a bipartisan piece of legislation that passed the House on the suspension calendar last week. The version before us now has been modified to reflect the views of the relevant Senate committees of jurisdiction as well as those of the administration. The bill is necessary as uncollected debt owed the Federal Government continues to be a major problem. According to the Department of Treasury, delinquent nontax debts owed to the Federal Government totaled \$51 billion at the end of Fiscal Year 1997.

□ 2000

Of this amount, \$47.2 billion was delinquent for more than 180 days.

This bill will prove improve the efficiency and economy of Federal debt collection practices. It builds on other debt collection initiatives and provides the Federal Government with important debt collection tools.

The bill requires agencies to report to Congress on uncollected delinquent non-tax debts over \$1 million. The bill also authorizes agencies to sell non-tax loans and bar delinquent debtors from obtaining a Federal permit or license, Federal contract, or other award or renewal of a Federal benefit. H.R. 4857 contains these important provisions and many others designed to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the debt collection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS).

The amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 3910, AUTOMOBILE NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA ACT

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 129) to correct a technical error in the enrollment of H.R. 3910, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alaska?

The Chair has not received assurances of clearance from the minority at this time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, we have been assured of the clearance by the minority. There is minority on the floor. They agree with it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The request of the gentleman is withdrawn.

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER COMMERCIALIZATION ACT OF 1998

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Science be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4859) to improve the ability of Federal agencies to license federally owned inventions, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 4859

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Technology Transfer Commercialization Act of 1998”.

SEC. 2. COOPERATIVE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENTS.

Section 12(b)(1) of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3710a(b)(1)) is amended by inserting “or, subject to section 209 of title 35, United States Code, may grant a license to an invention which is federally owned, for which a patent application was filed before the granting of the license, and directly within the scope of the work under the agreement,” after “under the agreement.”.

SEC. 3. LICENSING FEDERALLY OWNED INVENTIONS.

(a) **AMENDMENT.**—Section 209 of title 35, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§ 209. Licensing federally owned inventions

“(a) **AUTHORITY.**—A Federal agency may grant an exclusive or partially exclusive license on a federally owned invention under section 207(a)(2) only if—

“(1) granting the license is a reasonable and necessary incentive to—

“(A) call forth the investment capital and expenditures needed to bring the invention to practical application; or

“(B) otherwise promote the invention's utilization by the public;

“(2) the Federal agency finds that the public will be served by the granting of the li-

cense, as indicated by the applicant's intentions, plans, and ability to bring the invention to practical application or otherwise promote the invention's utilization by the public, and that the proposed scope of exclusivity is not greater than reasonably necessary to provide the incentive for bringing the invention to practical utilization, as proposed by the applicant, or otherwise to promote the invention's utilization by the public;

“(3) the applicant makes a commitment to achieve practical utilization of the invention within a reasonable time, which time may be extended by the agency upon the applicant's request and the applicant's demonstration that the refusal of such extension would be unreasonable;

“(4) granting the license will not tend to substantially lessen competition or create or maintain a violation of the Federal antitrust laws; and

“(5) in the case of an invention covered by a foreign patent application or patent, the interests of the Federal Government or United States industry in foreign commerce will be enhanced.

“(b) **MANUFACTURE IN UNITED STATES.**—A Federal agency shall normally grant a license under section 207(a)(2) to use or sell any federally owned invention in the United States only to a licensee who agrees that any products embodying the invention or produced through the use of the invention will be manufactured substantially in the United States.

“(c) **SMALL BUSINESS.**—First preference for the granting of any exclusive or partially exclusive licenses under section 207(a)(2) shall be given to small business firms having equal or greater likelihood as other applicants to bring the invention to practical application within a reasonable time.

“(d) **TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**—Any licenses granted under section 207(a)(2) shall contain such terms and conditions as the granting agency considers appropriate. Such terms and conditions shall include provisions—

“(1) retaining a nontransferrable, irrevocable, paid-up license for any Federal agency to practice the invention or have the invention practiced throughout the world by or on behalf of the Government of the United States;

“(2) requiring periodic reporting on utilization of the invention, and utilization efforts, by the licensee, but only to the extent necessary to enable the Federal agency to determine whether the terms of the license are being complied with; and

“(3) empowering the Federal agency to terminate the license in whole or in part if the agency determines that—

“(A) the licensee is not executing its commitment to achieve practical utilization of the invention, including commitments contained in any plan submitted in support of its request for a license, and the licensee cannot otherwise demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Federal agency that it has taken, or can be expected to take within a reasonable time, effective steps to achieve practical utilization of the invention;

“(B) the licensee is in breach of an agreement described in subsection (b);

“(C) termination is necessary to meet requirements for public use specified by Federal regulations issued after the date of the license, and such requirements are not reasonably satisfied by the licensee; or

“(D) the licensee has been found by a court of competent jurisdiction to have violated the Federal antitrust laws in connection with its performance under the license agreement.

“(e) **PUBLIC NOTICE.**—No exclusive or partially exclusive license may be granted under section 207(a)(2) unless public notice of